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ABSTRACT

"One PLUS one," the PLUS Project on Mentoring, is a Public Television Outreach Alliane campaign to promote mentoring and literacy. The Nebraska Educational Television (ETV) Network, in an attempt to match experienced, responsible adults (mentors) with youth facing profound academic and emotional challenges, compiled a directory of Nebraska schools and social service agencies that offer mentoring programs. The directory of mentoring programs is presented in this document; it is based on material submitted in response to a statewide survey. For each listing, the program name and address, a contact person and telephone number, and a brief description of the program are provided. Twenty-seven programs are included, and listed by geographical regions of Nebraska. (BHK)

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THE MAGIC OF MENTORING

In The Odyssey, Homer gave the name Mentor to a friend whom Odysseus trusted with the guidance and education of his son. Thus, the term "mentor" was born, used to describe influential elders who make a difference.

The definition of a mentor hasn't changed much since the days of ancient Greece. Youngsters still have problems--both academic and emotional--that can be overcome with the help of a caring adult as a mentor. Many of today's children risk falling short of their true potential as students, employees and citizens, but mentors can help change that. Mentors give one-on-one guidance, acting as tutors, role models and, most of all, friends.

"One PLUS One," the PLUS Project on Mentoring, is a Public Television Outreach Alliance campaign to promote mentoring and literacy. The Nebraska ETV Network compiled this directory of Nebraska schools and social service agencies that offer mentoring programs. The goal is to match wise, responsible adults--"mentors"--with youngsters facing profound academic and emotional challenges.

If you know a youngster who could benefit from mentoring--or if you would like to volunteer as a mentor--consult a program listed in this directory. All mentoring programs listed are free, unless specified otherwise.

Listings are divided into geographical regions of Nebraska.

NOTE: This directory has been compiled by the Nebraska ETV Network as a public service based on material submitted in response to a statewide survey. Some programs may not be included because resource information was either unknown, unavailable or not provided by press time.

The Nebraska ETV Network does not necessarily endorse or recommend any specific program listed in this directory. The Network cannot be held responsible for the content, quality, techniques or actions of any listed mentoring program and its volunteers.

L I N C O L N A R E A

SOCIAL SERVICES/YWCA INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS MENTORING PROGRAM, 301 Centennial Mall South, 5th Floor, Lincoln, NE 68509

Contact: Mary Furnas, Department of Social Services, (402) 471-9434; Kellie Knox, YWCA, (402) 476-2802

Program: Developed as a follow-up to Independent Living Skills classes. YWCA manages the program, using a Department of Social Services curriculum. The target population is foster care youth ages 16 and older who are, or will be, moving out to live independently within the next six months. There is an 18 hour pre-service program for the mentor and a monthly meeting/training session. Screening for the appropriate mentor is an integral part of the program. Applicants with good moral character are desired. Police and Nebraska State Patrol checks are done. References are also checked. Evaluations are performed quarterly. There are also biweekly meetings and monthly reporting forms to monitor mentor involvement. Mentors must commit at least one year to the program for consideration. Volunteeer handbooks are available.

MALONE COMMUNITY CENTER MENTORING PROGRAM, 2032 "U" St, Lincoln, NE 68503

Contact: Andy Hird, (402) 474-1110

Program: This program matches minority and disadvantaged youth, ages 12 to 18, with successful, influential adults. Mentors are trained by the young-adult program coordinator, then serve for a minimum of six months. Screening is done through the county attorney's office. Progress is monitored through both individual and group meetings held monthly.

LITERACY CENTER MENTORING PROGRAM, 2202 So. 9th St, Lincoln, NE 68508

Contact: Lois Poppe, (402) 471-4515

Program: Offers one-on-one mentoring for U.S. citizens and recent immigrants ages 16 and up. Instruction covers English reading and writing skills.

LINCOLN ACTION PROGRAM MENTORING, 2202 So. 11th St, Lincoln, NE 68502

Contact: Pat Abel, (402) 471-4515

Program: One-on-one mentoring for junior high and high school students, preferably from low-income families. Instruction covers all subject areas.

YMCA BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS, Suite 305, 201 No. 8th St, Lincoln, NE 68508

Contact: Barb Gaither, (402) 477-8979

Program: Mentors are available for children, ages 6 to 14, with single parents. The program focuses on role modeling, not tutoring. Mentors must make a one-year commitment.

SCHOOL DISTRICT #145 MENTORING PROGRAM, P.O. Box 426, Waverly, NE 68462

Contact: Al Blankenship, (402) 786-2765

Program: This mentoring program is set up by the high school guidance counselor and offers one-on-one mentoring with individual students.

LINCOLN HISPANIC COMMUNITY CENTER, 2027 South St, Lincoln, NE 68503

Contact: Frank Sanchez, (402) 474-3950

Program: Mentors are available for Hispanic high school students with instruction in all subject areas. Mentors are usually trained University of Nebraska-Lincoln students.

THE NEBRASKA HUMAN RESOURCES INSTITUTE, 501 Building, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 501 No. 10th St, Lincoln, NE 68588-0205

Contact: Jan Kauffman, (402) 472-3477

Programs: The Institute has several mentoring programs that use volunteer University of Nebraska-Lincoln students. Mentors are placed one-on-one with children who have various needs. Student mentors are selected through interviews, then matched with children in the Lincoln Public Schools. The various programs use mentoring to combat such problems as the high school dropout rate, obstacles faced by physically handicapped and visually impaired youth, and more.

LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS MENTORING PROGRAM FOR GIFTED STUDENTS, 720 So. 22nd St, Lincoln, NE 68508

Contact: Jody Batten, (402) 475-1081

Program: This program offers one-on-one mentoring for gifted children from kindergarten through 12th grade. Instruction covers areas of interest to the child that may not be taught in the traditional classroom setting.

SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE, Lincoln Campus, 8800 "O" St, Lincoln, NE 68520

Contact: Curt Sederburg, (402) 471-3333

Program: A mentoring program offering adult basic education, English-as-a-second-language and citizenship classes. Instruction is primarily for undereducated adults 16 years of age and older who need basic education skills. Classes are also provided for people who need GED testing. Instruction is provided on an individualized basis on a morning, afternoon or evening schedule. Instructors, teacher aides and volunteers provide the instruction in a one-to-one method of teaching. Training sessions are provided for the staff prior to starting their assignment and at various times throughout the year. The mentor-student relationship starts on the first day of enrollment. Progress reports are forwarded to the office at the end of each month. Follow-up calls are made by instructors and/or the office to determine effectiveness of the instructional program. The instructional program continues throughout the year and the same staff members are generally assigned to one of several locations. Instruction and materials are free.

PRIVATE INDUSTRY COUNCIL/LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS MENTORING PROGRAM, P.O. Box 82889, Lincoln, NE 68501

Contact: Jim Cotter, (402) 475-1081

Program: This mentoring program is designed to keep junior high at-risk students in school by matching them with an adult in the Lincoln work force. The program aims to teach youth that their education is a valuable means for obtaining a desired position in the adult work place.

The program is divided into four phases. Phase I is a class held twice weekly for five weeks. The class features speakers, films and various tips and information that stress the relationship between work and school. Phase II involves pairing students with mentors who help youth gain insight into the nature of careers. Phase III is a four-week internship in which the student is assigned to a job site in the community during the day. Phase IV is a work-study arrangement that could last an indefinite period of time, perhaps through a youth's high school years. Students must maintain satisfactory progress to remain in the program.

LINCOLN INDIAN CENTER, 1100 Military Rd., Lincoln, NE 68508

Contact: Valerie Shangreaux, (402) 474-5231

Programs: The Indian Youth Leadership Program is an educational enrichment program designed for Native American junior high students. The purpose is to improve academic achievement through counseling, tutoring, bicultural competency, skills training, summer school and educational and recreational field trips. All staff and volunteer mentors are screened. This is a year-round program with academic and summer components. Progress is monitored by attendance, grades and standardized test scores.

The Indian Youth Entrepreneurial Project is an economic education program designed to increase the employability and self-sufficiency of Native American high school students. The project provides youth with the opportunity to develop business skills through a Native American Junior Achievement Company and a Summer Business Institute held at, and in cooperation with, Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln.

DISCOVERER CHAPTER, NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY, Columbus High School, 2200 26th St, Columbus, NE 68601

Contact: Joy Stilmock, (402) 564-3224

Program: This is a peer tutoring program that matches National Honor Society (NHS) members with students experiencing academic difficulties. The NHS advisor contacts an honor student and matches them with a peer in need. Tutoring sessions take place after school or during lunch hour or study hall. The tutor maintains a daily progress journal and attends training sessions.

BIG PALS/LITTLE PALS OF GREATER COLUMBUS, 2927 33rd St., Columbus, NE 68601

Contact: Roxanne McCright, (402) 564-9073

Program: This mentoring program matches adult volunteers with children, ages 6 to 16, from single parent homes. Volunteers must spend two to three hours per week with Little Pals and give a one-year commitment. Volunteers are carefully screened--they must give three references on their application. A check is done with the Department of Social Services in Lincoln. The volunteer also must sign releases giving permission for checks at other agencies.

Potential Big Pals also meet with the executive director and discuss which age of child would work best for them. Matches must be approved by the board of directors. Matches are monitored on a quarterly basis. New matches are screened monthly by the executive director. The mentoring is one-on-one and Big Pals/Little Pals emphasizes quality relationships, not ones where a lot of money is spent. The agency has planned activities on a quarterly basis that mentors and mentees can attend. Training is given by the executive director.

BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS OF NORTHEAST NEBRASKA, 125 So. 4th St., Norfolk, NE 68702-0721

Contact: Larry Blaser, (402) 371-1612 or 371-7735

Program: This mentoring/role modeling program matches adult volunteers with children from single parent homes. Age range for children is 6 to 18. Volunteers commit three to four hours a week with child for one year. Monthly group activities--movies, bowling, roller skating, field trips--are scheduled. All mentor applicants are carefully screened.

NORTHWEST IOWA

INDIAN YOUTH OF AMERICA, P.O. Box 2786, Sioux City, IA 51106

Contact: Paige Gordon, 1-800-828-4492

Program: A summer camp for underprivileged Native American children ages 11 to 15. This program exposes children to positive Native American role models who are college students recruited through colleges with Native American studies programs. Camps are located in Arizona, South Dakota and Oregon. Camp Bob Marshall, near Custer, SD, is the closest to Nebraska. Campers must provide their own roundtrip transportation to the camps and pay a $100 fee. Many children are sponsored by tribal organizations and have had fees waived. In addition to the summer camps, Indian Youth of America sponsors a national resource center and newsletter, local crisis intervention, substance abuse counseling, after school program and Christmas party.

BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS OF SIOUXLAND, 1512 Pierce St., Sioux City, IA 51105

Contact: Art Silva, (712) 255-1399

Program: This program provides mentoring/role modeling for children, ages 6 to 17, from single parent homes. A program using high school students as Big Brothers/Big Sisters also is available. All mentor applicants are carefully screened. Nebraskans from South Sioux City and other nearby towns are welcome to apply.

OMAHA METRO AREA

BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS OF THE MIDLANDS, 9015 F St., Omaha, NE 68127

Contact: Rolee Self Kelly, (402) 339-9720

Program: A prevention program for youth, ages 7 to 17, from single parent homes. Volunteer provides role-modeling and helps child develop positive self-esteem. Areas of prevention include: crime/delinquency, school dropouts, academic performance, substance abuse/teen pregnancy, abuse/neglect.

Volunteers must go through a long and thorough screening process. The volunteer fills out an application and gives three personal references. The volunteer's background is checked with Nebraska Department of Social Services, Nebraska State Patrol and Council Bluffs Police Department. Volunteer attends a group orientation to learn program details, then is assigned a caseworker who visits volunteer's home. Social history interview is done with caseworker, and an assessment is written. Volunteer must then be approved by agency caseworkers, program coordinator and executive director. When approved, volunteer and caseworker select most appropriate child to work with. Mentors must spend three to four hours a week with child. Within three weeks of a match, mentor is provided with training.

BENSON HIGH SCHOOL, 5120 Maple St., Omaha, NE 68104.

Contact: Bette Norton, (402) 554-6600

Program: Mentoring available for students "at risk" of dropping out of high school. Staff is invited to mentor one student. The purpose is to give extra attention to students in need.

MARIAN HIGH SCHOOL, 7400 Military Rd., Omaha, NE 68134

Contact: Guidance counselor, (402) 571-2618

Programs: A peer-tutoring program provided by National Honor Society (NHS) students. Tutor and tutee meet weekly for one month, then evaluate. They may then continue meeting regularly or informally. NHS advisor monitors the program. Both tutor and tutee complete a written evaluation. The Campus Ministry organization provides weekly tutoring to public and private elementary school children. The tutors are monitored by the Campus Ministry Director. One-on-one mentoring is provided by retired teachers, coordinated by Student Services. Former teachers volunteer to mentor students with special needs and concerns in tandem with the Guidance Department. Mentors and students meet weekly.

NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL, 8204 Crown Point Ave., Omaha, NE 68134

Contact: Kathleen Williams, (402) 572-5900

Program: Peer-tutoring provided by students with high academic ability and responsibility, recommended by staff. All potential tutors attend orientation sessions in which procedures, solutions to problems and the importance of confidentiality are delineated. Tutees must request assistance or parents/teachers must request help on tutee's behalf. Tutors and tutees meet on a regular basis, either before/after school, or during lunch hour or study hall. All tutoring is monitored by the program director. Student progress is evaluated at the end of each semester.

BROWNELL-TALBOT SCHOOL, 400 North Happy Hollow Blvd., Omaha, NE 68132

Contact: Nicholas Nittler, (402) 556-3772

Program: Presently developing a mentoring program for students in the Middle School (grades 5 to 8) and Upper School (grades 9 to 12). Will initially use faculty members, then possibly branch out to recruit alumni as mentors.

CENTRAL NEBRASKA

SCHOOL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM, Sandy Creek Schools, P.O. Box 127, Fairfield, NE 68938

Contact: Sanie Davis, (402) 726-2155

Program: Mentoring program pairs adult volunteer mentors with students in grades 7 to 12. Mentors are trained through workshops and must follow guidelines delineated in the School Community Involvement Program Handbook. Each mentor serves one year. Progress is evaluated weekly by checking with teachers who have students enrolled in the program.

THE FRIENDS PROGRAM, Mid-Nebraska Community Services, Inc., P.O. Box 2288, Kearney, NE 68848

Contact: Phyllis Moats, Friends Coordinator, or Dorothy B. Bliss, Community Services Director, (308) 234-2595

Program: Friends is a mentoring/role modeling program for elementary school children with special needs. A college student serves as a role model/mentor for one year. Relationships are monitored by the Friends coordinator. Little Friends come from one of the following backgrounds: a dysfunctional family; single parent family; a home where alcoholism is a problem; a home where there is a terminal illness or a recent death. Children with behavior problems or inefficient social skills at school, a history of child abuse or a recent emotional trauma also are selected. All applicants are accepted, but children with priority needs are matched first. Not affiliated with Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS OF GRAND ISLAND, 119 N. Wheeler, P.O. Box 1044, Grand Island, NE 68802

Contact: Kathryn Otting, (308) 384-3456

Program: Matches children, ages 6 to 17, from single parent homes, with mentors/role models. All volunteers are carefully screened.

BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS OF HASTINGS, 604 North St. Joseph St., Hastings, NE 68901

Contact: LaDene Alsdorf, (402) 463-5652

Program: Matches children from single parent homes with adult mentors. Although there are no minimum or maximum age qualifications to participate, the program focuses on children ages 8 to 12. Children and mentor volunteers must be residents of Hastings or Adams, Clay, Webster or Nuckolls counties for at least six months to be eligible. Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age. All volunteers are carefully screened.

WESTERN NEBRASKA PANHANDLE

KENWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, West Norfolk St., Chadron, NE 69337

Contact: Pam Smith, (308) 432-2790

Program: Elementary counseling program.

YOUNG PARENTS PROGRAM, Panhandle Community Services, 3350 No. 10th St., P.O. Box 668, Gering, NE 69341

Contact: Sharon Chamberlin, (308) 635-3089

Program: Tutoring and GED instruction for teenage parents/pregnant teens. GED preparation, parenting education and independent living skills are offered twice a week for three to four hours a session. On-site child care and transportation are offered twice a week for three to four hours each session.

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